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10/821,237	04/08/2004	Gregory S. Kelley	1001.1753101	9566
28075 7590 02/18/2010 CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC 1221 NICOLLET AVENUE SUITE 800 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403-2420				
EXAMINER				
GOFF II, JOHN L				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Continuation of 11. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:

Applicants argue, “Figure 2B of Vigil et al. appears to disclose semi-circular grooves 35a/b/c formed in the base 37 of an atherotome 28. It can be appreciated that by virtue of the grooves 35a/b/c being *semicircular*, none of the grooves 35a/b/c provide an interlocking surface that can interlock with a joining member. Indeed, because the grooves 35a/b/c are semicircular, their shape would not provide any structural resistance that would serve to hold or “interlock” the atherotomes with a joining member.”.

Claim 17 requires “forming a plurality of openings in the metallic cutting blade along the base to define an interlocking surface”. Vigil teaches a base having a plurality of openings (35a, 35b, and 35c). The base taught by Vigil including the surface having a plurality of openings is locked/interlocked/interconnected within the strip. Thus, the surface of the base having a plurality of openings is an interlocking surface. It is additionally noted, the claims do not require openings of any particular shape or type, and applicants specification does not define an interlocking surface to require any particular shape or type of openings.

/John L. Goff/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791